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LETTER DATED 2 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter addressed to you by Senator Sartaj Aziz, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, regarding the shooting down of an unarmed Pakistan Navy aircraft by India on 10 August 1999 (see annex).

I request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Inam ul HAQUE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-25406 (E) 020999

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Annex

Letter dated 30 August 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan addressed to the President of the Security Council

1. On 10 August 1999, an unarmed Pakistani naval aircraft, Breguet Atlantique, undertaking scheduled instrument flight training over Pakistani airspace was shot down by air-to-air missiles fired by Indian air force planes. All 16 personnel on board the Atlantique, mostly young naval trainees, were killed.

2. India has admitted that its air force shot down the Pakistani naval aircraft. India's initial assertion that it had shot down the aircraft over Indian airspace has been subsequently proven false.

3. After shooting down the Atlantique, Indian forces again violated Pakistan's airspace and territory by sending helicopters to remove parts of the aircraft's wreckage to the Indian side of the border. This macabre theft was designed to substantiate India's false assertion that the Pakistan naval aircraft had been shot down over Indian territory.

4. This wanton and unprovoked use of force by India against an unarmed Pakistani aircraft, over Pakistani airspace, constitutes a "grave breach of the peace", and an "act of aggression" within the meaning of the Charter of the United Nations. This act of aggression also violated the 1991 Pakistan-India bilateral agreement regarding Prevention of Airspace Violations.

5. This aggression has further deteriorated the relations between India and Pakistan. Unless appropriate redress is provided for this wanton use of force, it could lead to a further escalation of the tensions between the two countries.

6. The Government of Pakistan has requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send a United Nations fact-finding mission to establish the truth regarding this grave incident. We await his positive response.

7. Pakistan has also demanded that India pay appropriate compensation for the aircraft and the loss of lives as a result of the unlawful and unprovoked shooting down of our aircraft.

8. The Security Council, which is entrusted with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, must take cognizance of the act of aggression by India and support Pakistan's request for a United Nations fact-finding mission and its demand on India for appropriate compensation.

9. Finally, Pakistan reserves all its rights under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(Signed) Sartaj AZIZ